

REMARKS

Claim 8

Examiner has indicated in the Office Action that the prior art of record fails to teach or adequately suggest the claimed features of claim 8 together with the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 8 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 8 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 9, 10, and 12-17 are dependent upon claim 8, particularly as amended, and therefore incorporate the requirements of claim 8. Thus, they are also believed to be allowable.

Independent Claims 11 and 20

Similarly, independent claims 11 and 20 include all of the limitations of claim 8 as rewritten, and therefore are also believed to be allowable as computer program product and system embodiments paralleling the methodology in claim 8.

Claim 19 is dependent upon claim 11, particularly as amended, and therefore incorporates the requirements of claim 11. Thus, it is also believed to be allowable.


Claim 1

Claim 1, particularly as amended, requires creation of a sub-category into which the site is categorized; assignment of a creator identity to the sub-category that includes information about a creator of the sub-category; and a grant of a privilege to the creator of the sub-category. These limitations have been taken from amended claim 8 and added to claim 1 as originally filed.

Examiner has indicated that the prior art of record fails to teach or adequately suggest the claimed features of claim 8 together with the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 1, by virtue of its incorporation of the limitations of (or taken from) claim 8 and any intervening claims, is believed to be allowable.

Claims 2 through 7 are dependent upon claim 1, particularly as amended, and therefore incorporate the requirements of claim 1. Thus, they are also believed to be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Dominic Kotab
Reg. No. 42,762

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Silicon Valley IP Group
P.O. Box 721120
San Jose, California 95172-1120
Telephone: (408) 971-2573
Facsimile: (408) 971-4660

Appendix 1

Amended and new claims are denoted with (AMENDED) and (NEW), respectively.

NOTE: Underlining denotes added text. Brackets denote deleted text. Amended claims

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for generating a prioritized network site directory, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) generating at least one link to a site on a network;
 - (b) adding the site to a site directory having a set of categories comprising at least one category[, each category including a plurality of links];
 - (c) categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory;
 - (d) ranking the categorized site in the category;
 - [(e) displaying the links in the category according to rank, the links including the at least one generated link;
 - (f) displaying an identity of the creator of the at least one generated link to a second user upon display of the links to the second user; and
 - (g) allowing the second user to send an information transmittal to the creator of the at least one link]
 - (e) creating a sub-category into which the site is categorized;
 - (f) assigning a creator identity to the sub-category that includes information about a creator of the sub-category; and
 - (g) granting the creator of the sub-category at least one privilege selected from a group consisting of: recommending to accept or reject additional sites into and additional sub-categories under the sub-category, receiving information transmittals from users of the site in the sub-category, and transmitting information to users of sites in the sub-category.
8. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for generating a prioritized network site directory, [as recited in claim 1, further] comprising [the steps of]:
 - (a) generating at least one link to a site on a network;
 - (b) adding the site to a site directory having a set of categories comprising at least one category, each category including a plurality of links;

- (c) categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory;
 - (d) ranking the categorized site in the category;
 - (e) displaying the links in the category according to rank, the links including the at least one generated link;
 - (f) displaying an identity of the creator of the at least one generated link to a second user upon display of the links to the second user;
 - (g) allowing the second user to send an information transmittal to the creator of the at least one link;
 - (h) creating a sub-category into which the site is categorized;
 - (i) assigning a creator identity to the sub-category that includes information about a creator of the sub-category; and
 - (j) granting the creator of the sub-category at least one privilege selected from a group consisting of: recommending to accept or reject additional sites into and additional sub-categories under the sub-category, receiving information transmittals from users of the site in the sub-category, and transmitting information to users of sites in the sub-category.
9. (TWICE AMENDED) A method as recited in claim [1] 8, wherein the information transmittal is selected from a group consisting of: an electronic mail message and an instant message.
10. (TWICE AMENDED) A method as recited in claim [1] 8, further comprising the step of associating a mode of communication with the category; the mode of communication being selected from a group consisting of: a forum and a chat room.
11. (THRICE AMENDED) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for generating a prioritized network site directory, comprising:
- (a) a code segment that generates at least one link to a site on a network;
 - (b) a code segment that adds the site to a site directory having a set of categories comprising at least one category, each category including a plurality of links;
 - (c) a code segment that categorizes the site into one of the categories of the site directory;
 - (d) a code segment that ranks the categorized site in the category;

- (e) a code segment that displays the links in the category according to rank, the links including the at least one generated link;
 - (f) a code segment that displays an identity of the creator of the at least one generated link to a second user upon display of the links to the second user; [and]
 - (g) a code segment that allows the second user to send an information transmittal to the creator of the at least one link;
 - (h) a code segment that creates a sub-category into which the site is categorized;
 - (i) a code segment that assigns a creator identity to the sub-category that includes information about a creator of the sub-category; and
 - (j) a code segment that grants the creator of the sub-category at least one privilege selected from a group consisting of: recommending to accept or reject additional sites into and additional sub-categories under the sub-category, receiving information transmittals from users of the site in the sub-category, and transmitting information to users of sites in the sub-category.
12. (AMENDED) A [computer program] method as recited in claim [11] 8, wherein the [code segment that adds] step of adding the site to the site directory further comprises: [a code segment that compares] comparing the site to pre-existing sites in the site directory; and [a code segment that generates] generating a notification if the site matches one of the pre-existing sites of the site directory.
13. (AMENDED) A [computer program] method as recited in claim [11] 8, wherein [the code segment that categorizes] categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises: [a code segment that generates] generating a table of sites, wherein the table of sites comprises at least one pre-existing site ranked in the set of categories of the set directory; [a code segment that determines] determining whether the site exists in the table of sites; and [a code segment that maps] mapping the site to one of the categories of the set of categories if the site exists in the table of sites.
14. (TWICE AMENDED) A [computer program] method as recited in claim 13, wherein [the code segment that categorizes] categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site

directory further comprises [a code segment that searches] searching the site for keywords relating to the categories of the set of categories if the site does not exist in the table of sites.

15. (TWICE AMENDED) A [computer program] method as recited in claim 13, wherein [the code segment that categorizes] categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises: [a code segment that selects] selecting one of the categories into which the site is to be categorized; [a code segment that compares] comparing the selected category to the category to which the site is mapped; and [a code segment that generates] generating a notification if the selected category does not match the category to which the site is mapped.
16. (THRICE AMENDED) A [computer program] method as recited in claim [11] 8, wherein the site is ranked in the category according to a type of ranking based on at least one of: the number of generated links to the site, the frequency that the site is accessed by selection of the links, and polling.
17. (THRICE AMENDED) A [computer program] method as recited in claim 16, further comprising [a code segment that allows] allowing a user to specify the type of ranking applied to the category, wherein the sites in the category are displayed according to the user-selected type of ranking.

Please cancel claim 18.

19. (AMENDED) A computer program as recited in claim [18] 11, further comprising a code segment that grants the creator of the sub-category at least one of the privileges consisting of: recommending to accept or reject additional sites into and additional sub-categories under the sub-category, receiving information transmittals from users of site in the sub-category, and transmitting information to users of sites in the sub-category.
20. (TWICE AMENDED) A system for generating a prioritized network site directory, comprising:

- (a) a logic that generates at least one link to a site on a network;
- (b) a logic that adds the site to a site directory having a set of categories comprising at least one category, each category including a plurality of links;
- (c) a logic that categorizes the site into one of the categories of the site directory;
- (d) a logic that ranks the categorized site in the category;
- (e) a logic that displays the links in the category according to rank, the links including the at least one generated link;
- (f) a logic that displays an identity of the creator of the at least one generated link to a second user upon display of the links to the second user; [and]
- (g) a logic that allows the second user to send an information transmittal to the creator of the at least one link;
- (h) a logic that creates a sub-category into which the site is categorized;
- (i) a logic that assigns a creator identity to the sub-category that includes information about a creator of the sub-category; and
- (j) a logic that grants the creator of the sub-category at least one privilege selected from a group consisting of: recommending to accept or reject additional sites into and additional sub-categories under the sub-category, receiving information transmittals from users of the site in the sub-category, and transmitting information to users of sites in the sub-category.